

## SENATE BILL No. 212

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-12-70.2.

**Synopsis:** E-scholars. Establishes the e-scholars program to provide computers and Internet access for certain students.

**Effective:** July 1, 2004.

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January 8, 2004, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 212

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-70.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2004]:

4 **Chapter 70.2. E-Scholars Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state**  
6 **student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.**

7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "e-scholar eligible student"**  
8 **means a student who meets the following requirements:**

- 9 (1) **The student is a resident of Indiana.**  
10 (2) **The student is enrolled in grade 9 at a public or an**  
11 **accredited nonpublic school.**  
12 (3) **The student was previously determined to be a twenty-first**  
13 **century scholar by the commission.**  
14 (4) **The student attends a school that:**  
15 (A) **is a member of the web academy; or**  
16 (B) **agrees to meet the criteria established by the web**  
17 **academy.**



1        **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the e-scholars**  
 2        **fund established by section 7 of this chapter.**

3        **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the**  
 4        **e-scholars program established by section 6 of this chapter.**

5        **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "web academy" refers to the**  
 6        **joint program of the intelenet commission and the department of**  
 7        **education that provides Internet technology, training, support, and**  
 8        **hands-on experience for students, teachers, and families.**

9        **Sec. 6. The e-scholars program is established to do the**  
 10       **following:**

11        **(1) Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high**  
 12        **school before graduation.**

13        **(2) Increase the number of students who are prepared with**  
 14        **technological skills to enter the workforce after graduation.**

15        **(3) Increase the number of students entering institutions of**  
 16        **higher learning.**

17        **(4) Encourage eligible students to attend institutions of higher**  
 18        **learning by reducing the financial burden on the eligible**  
 19        **students and their families.**

20        **(5) Decrease drug and alcohol abuse by encouraging higher**  
 21        **educational pursuits.**

22        **(6) Increase individual economic vitality.**

23        **(7) Improve the overall quality of life for residents of Indiana.**

24        **(8) Provide a resource for the entire family to support**  
 25        **educational efforts.**

26        **Sec. 7. (a) The e-scholars fund is established to provide the**  
 27        **financial resources necessary to award the computers and Internet**  
 28        **access under the program.**

29        **(b) The commission shall administer the fund by delegating**  
 30        **implementation and operation of the program to the web academy.**

31        **(c) The fund consists of:**

32        **(1) gifts to the fund;**

33        **(2) appropriations from the general assembly;**

34        **(3) grants, including grants from private entities; and**

35        **(4) a combination of the resources described in subdivisions**  
 36        **(1), (2), and (3).**

37        **(d) The expenses of administering and implementing the fund**  
 38        **shall be paid from money in the fund.**

39        **(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not**  
 40        **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**  
 41        **manner as other public funds may be invested.**

42        **(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**

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1 revert to the state general fund.

2 (g) Money in the fund is appropriated continuously for the  
3 purpose stated in subsection (a).

4 Sec. 8. Money in the fund shall be used to provide computers  
5 and Internet access to e-scholars.

6 Sec. 9. If an eligible e-scholar violates an agreement entered into  
7 under this chapter, the eligible e-scholar is disqualified from  
8 further consideration as an e-scholar recipient under this chapter.

9 Sec. 10. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to  
10 implement this chapter, including:

11 (1) rules regarding the establishment of appeals procedures  
12 for individuals who become disqualified from the program  
13 under section 9 of this chapter; and

14 (2) notwithstanding section 2 of this chapter, rules that may  
15 include students who are in grades other than grade 9 as  
16 eligible students.

17 Sec. 11. The commission shall do the following:

18 (1) Prepare a statistical report that describes awards to  
19 e-scholars on a fiscal year basis.

20 (2) Deliver the report described in subdivision (1) to the  
21 executive director of the legislative services agency, in the  
22 format required by IC 5-14-6, before August 15 of the year  
23 following the fiscal year covered in the report.

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